

A Dark Showing.

If there be one rule in ethics which more than another ought to obtain in political controversy, it is that which binds dispassionate respect to the private character of men brought into prominence, whether as candidates for public trust, or otherwise. No man's character should be lightly or wantonly assailed, for purposes of political capital. But while private rights and private reputation should be protected, public interest could not be lost sight of. If party recklessness thrusts a nomination, as a candidate for public favor or honor, any one whose character for honest integrity produces the suspicion that he would act with sordid ingenuity in such public position, then the people have a right to know what the man's character is, that his aspirations may be defeated and the State promoted against him. And in such event, the Press, the source of all popular information, is recreant to its duty if it fail to proclaim that character.

One of the political parties of Ohio has now in the field such a candidate for a position of high trust and honor—a candidate whose reputation as a man is so bad, that his elevation to the office for which no man has been present could scarcely fail to result in discredit or disgrace to the State. The party is the so-called "Democratic," and that candidate is HENRY B. PAYNE, it remains for Governor. These are grave charges, and should not be lightly made; let us see how well they may be founded.

In the winter of 1849-'50, Cuyahoga county was represented in the Ohio Legislature by Wm. B. Loyd. This Mr. Loyd was charged by the *Ohio Statesman* with forgery, and one of the witnesses called upon to prove the charge was Henry B. Payne. Mr. Loyd denied an investigation, and the matter was thus long delayed. It seems to have occurred to some of the members of the investigating Committee, that Mr. Payne's word might not be good, and in order to test the matter, number of friends and acquaintances of Mr. Payne were called upon to testify as to whether they would believe him under oath. The annexed report of the testimony of several (not all) of the witnesses examined, appears upon the record, and the facts cannot be denied.

The first witness is Mr. Ambrose Spencer, a son of the late Judge John C. Spencer, of Albany, N. Y., in whose office Mr. Payne studied law. He knew Mr. Payne's antecedents better than any man before the committee. We quote from the reported testimony of Mr. Spencer before the Committee:

Question. Are you acquainted with professional men; though I may have heard of circumstances impugning his veracity from others, which are not recited?

Ans. I have heard his character fully questioned by the ELEGABLE MEN.

Ques. Frequently or otherwise.

Ans. I should say several times.

Ques. By the Committee, by request of Mr. Payne. Have you heard Mr. Payne's character for veracity questioned by respectable persons other than members of the bar, and if so, by whom and how many, and under what circumstances?

Ans. My recollections are confined to professional men; though I may have heard of circumstances impugning his veracity from others, which are not recited.

Answer. I do know Mr. Payne. I think it was in the winter of 1853 I first became acquainted with him; his general character for truth I believe is not of the first order, and for my own part whenever his personal feelings or interest were concerned, I WOULD NOT BELIEVE HIM UNDER OATH.

Ques. Do you mean by Mr. B. Payne, Esq., the witness heretofore examined by the committee? And if so, have you at any time had a personal misunderstanding with him?

Ans. I mean H. B. Payne, of Cleveland, a partner of Hiram V. Wilson. So far from having any misunderstanding with Mr. Payne, I have been on the usual terms with him, which exist between gentlemen, since the time he studied law in my father, John C. Spencer's office, in Canandaigua, in the State of New York; and it is with regret that I have made the statement I have.

Ques. How long have you resided in the City of Cleveland, and how long has Mr. Payne resided there?

Ans. I have resided in the City of Cleveland two years next March. I think Mr. Payne has been in Cleveland more than four years.

Ques. What is his general character for truth in the City of Cleveland?

Ans. His reputation is bad in Cleveland as far as my knowledge extends.

Ques. In what particular sense, if any have you known Mr. Payne to depart from the truth?

Ans. In a case pending before the Court of Common Pleas, at Cleveland, an agreement was entered into between Thomas Bolton and Mr. Payne, in postpone the trial to the next term. During that term and during Mr. Bolton's absence from the Court House, Mr. Payne drew the attention of the Judge (Humphrey I think it was) to the number of his cases and requested that it might be taken up which was done; and Mr. Bolton stated to me that he was obliged to obtain written agreements from Mr. Payne to obligate him to fulfill his agreements. Too above information, I received solely from Mr. Bolton. I know no other instance.

Mr. James H. Hoyt is next called and he testifies as follows:

Ques. How long have you known H. B. Payne?

Ans. I have known Mr. Payne for nearly about two years, and after an interval of about five years, I have known him in Cleveland, between four and five years past.

Ques. Are you acquainted with the general character of H. B. Payne, in the neighborhood where he resides, for truth?

Ans. I am.

Ques. What is his general character in that respect?

Ans. From my knowledge of his general character for truth and veracity, I think it doubtful.

In answer to the question whether he would believe him under oath, he replies, "I think I would."

The evidence of Mr. Woolsey Wells is of the same nature. He is not willing to go so far as to say he would not believe Mr. P. under oath, yet his evidence damages Mr. P.'s character as a man of truth, quite effectually. He testifies:

Ques. Are you acquainted with H. B. Payne?

Ans. I am.

Ques. How long have you been acquainted with him?

Ans. Since 1846, but more particularly the last two years.

Ques. Are you acquainted with the general character of H. B. Payne, in the neighborhood where he resides, for truth?

THE TIFFIN TRIBUNE.

HOSTILE ALIKE TO THE DESPOT AND DEMAGOGUE. FEARLESS FOR TRUTH, FOR GOD, AND HUMANITY.

VOL. IX,

TIFFIN, OHIO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1857.

NO. 52.

Ans. I am somewhat acquainted with it.

Question by the same. What is his general character in that respect?

Answer. In a large majority of instances where I have heard his character for truth spoken, it has been unfavorable to that respect.

P. trick Whittlesey, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County—

Ques. How long have you been acquainted with H. B. Payne?

Ans. About six years.

Ques. Are you acquainted with his general character, in the neighborhood where he resides for truth?

Ans. To some extent.

Ques. What is his gen-ral character in this respect?

Ans. I have heard it questioned.

Ques. Have you no known Mr. Payne's professional statement that is, his word of honor in court questioned; and are no complaints of his want of veracity often heard among business men?

Ans. I have heard complain of Mr. P.'s veracity from professional men.

Ques. Have you not yourself declared that you believed he had stated falsehoods in court, while you were on the bench; or uttered words of similar purport?

Ans. I have said that if the statements of a few were true, his could not be.

Ques. Does Mr. Payne sustain a good character for truth, among respectable men, whom you have heard speak of that character?

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Ques. Frequently or otherwise.

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Ans. Since 1846, but more particularly the last two years.

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Ans. I have known Mr. Payne for nearly about two years, and after an interval of about five years, I have known him in Cleveland, between four and five years past.

Ques. Does the "Tribune" intend to defend the official conduct of ex-Treasurer Gibson. Does it intend to endorse all and singular his acts? Does it mean to declare that he has acted right in all his transactions? Let us know, whether the Black Republican party of Seneca County intend Gibson—Advertiser

No. Why do you ask such silly questions? Publish the Report of Thomas Sparrow, a Democrat; that will tell you who stole the people's money."

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Ques. Does the "Tribune" Fair comes off on the 7th, 8th and 9th of Oct.

LAWNS OF OHIO.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITATIVE.

NO. 193.

AN ACT.

To incorporate the "Lawns of Ohio" and its branches.

Section 1. It is enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, that the Bank of Ohio and the same be incorporated with all the powers heretofore granted, the right to issue notes of circulation, and of making and lending advances as full and ample as the Bank of Ohio, and the same be entitled to all the franchises and immunities contemplated by the creation of said corporation.

Section 2. That no less than five or more than ten thousand dollars shall be deposited in the bank of Columbus at each time that shall be designated by the board of directors, and a sum equal thereto, shall be deposited in each branch, and the same be entitled to all the franchises and immunities contemplated by the creation of said corporation.

Section 3. That no less than five or more than ten thousand dollars shall be deposited in the bank of each branch, and the same be entitled to all the franchises and immunities contemplated by the creation of said corporation.

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